

Award-Winning Program

In October 2010, the Puppies for Parole program received the 2010 Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity in the innovation category. This is a team award recognizing service excellence, efficiency, innovation, technology, process improvements and employee development in Missouri state government

Funding the Program

The Puppies for Parole program does not receive any general revenue funding from the state to support its activities. Rather, supplies and support come from partnering organizations, donations from offender organizations, and individual offenders. In July 2010, the department was approved to receive private donations from members of the community. Department staff established a not-for-profit group for this purpose.

Donations

Community members may donate to the Puppies for Parole program by visiting our website at doc.mo.gov/DAI/P4P_Donations.php and by following the instructions provided. To donate with a check or money order, please mail it to:

Puppies for Parole
Comptroller
Missouri Department of Corrections
2729 Plaza Dr.
PO Box 236
Jefferson City, MO 65102

All donations are used directly to benefit the Puppies for Parole program.



Missouri Department of Corrections

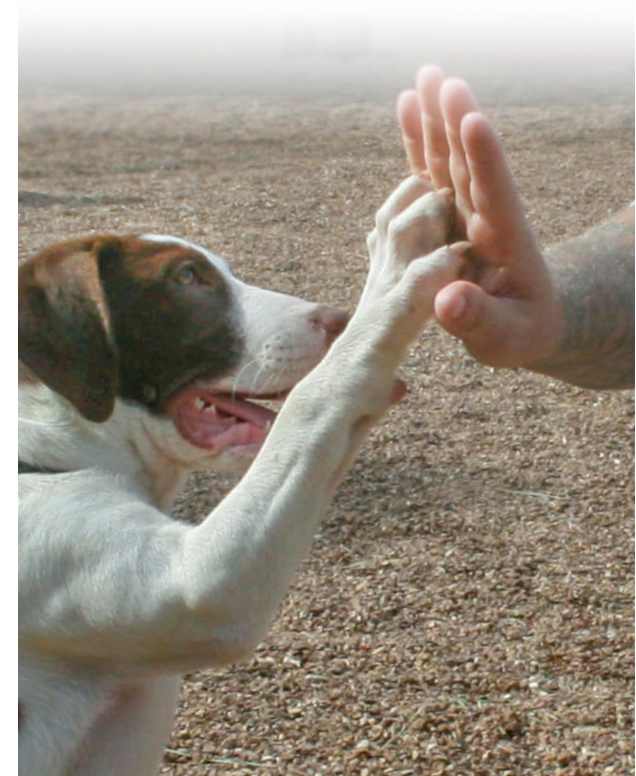
Michael L. Parson, Governor
Anne L. Precythe, Director

For more information about Puppies for Parole
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PUPPIES FOR PAROLE



*Rescuing dogs from a lifetime of pain ...
releasing people to a lifetime of change.*

About Puppies for Parole

Puppies for Parole is a unique program made possible through a partnership between the Missouri Department of Corrections, animal shelters and animal rescue groups. Selected offenders at participating institutions volunteer as dog trainers to teach basic obedience and socialization skills to the rescued canines, ultimately making them more adoptable. The program provides a valuable service to local communities while having a profound effect on the entire institutional population and staff. Once the dogs have successfully completed the program, the dogs return to the shelter, and made available for adoption.

Offender trainers are enrolled in an apprenticeship program through the U.S. Department of Labor. Through formal training, individualized study and on the job training, offenders earn a certificate in animal handling, which is recognized in all 50 states.



Program benefits

The benefits of the Puppies for Parole program are three-fold. The program gives offenders the skills necessary to support successful rehabilitation and re-entry, which ultimately improves public safety. At the same time, this is an opportunity for the offenders to begin to repay Missouri communities and repair some of the debts caused by their crimes. The department has witnessed this program to have a profound effect on offenders and staff, increasing the safety and security of the facility.

Benefits to the Community

- 🐾 Providing service to the community.
- 🐾 Reducing the number of dogs euthanized and living in animal shelters throughout the state.

Benefits to the Offender Trainers

- 🐾 Gain vocational skills and learn responsibility
- 🐾 Provides an opportunity to repay their debts to the community and develop selflessness

Benefits to the Correctional Institution

- 🐾 Boosts staff and offender morale
- 🐾 Provides an incentive for offenders to modify their behavior
- 🐾 Promotes mental health in prisons
- 🐾 Offers therapeutic treatment to offenders with mental or terminal illness

Since the beginning...

On February 1, 2010, the department welcomed its first dogs into the program, and since then, Puppies for Parole has expanded to 19 institutions and has found homes for thousands of dogs. In addition to training shelter dogs for household pets, the program has evolved into partnering with third party groups interested in providing further specialized training to meet those veterans in need for therapeutic service dogs.

Although, the Puppies for Parole program no longer provides advanced training to the dogs, by partnering with third party groups, it allows these groups to identify qualifying dogs within the program, make necessary arrangements for adoption from the shelter and provide the additional training necessary for their clients. This additional training helps to meet the growing demand for service dogs for veterans, and saving the lives of rescue dogs.

